



# Dealer News

May 2006

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Published by:  
CPT Rob Fortune

## **FROM THE COMMANDER...**

Dealer Family and Friends:

We are now on the back side of the deployment. Six months in to our year in Mesopotamia and you can be proud of all the successes of your Dealer. The battalion has continued to make inroads into Jurf as Sakhr, Abu Shensi and Musayyib while we continue to shepherd Karbala on its way to Security Transition. The Jurf IP Station and the Hamiya IP Station are in the process of being built, four schools are being renovated in our area, water treatment plants are being refurbished and we are even beginning a micro-loan program (for Iraqis, not Dealers).

Through all of these good works we have continued to prosecute an aggressive counter-insurgency campaign throughout the 7,000 square kilometers of Dealerland. Bushmaster and Carnivore conducted a number of operations this month to root out a resurgent group of IED layers and have had good success. Archangel continues the critical mission of integrating Iraqi Police into Jurf as Sakhr each day, and Dog is engaged each day in the travails of Musayyib politics. Eliminator and the Civil Affairs

folks work in Karbala each day as the Province nears transition and the engineers have employed the Weapons Cache Search Team and bulldozer to good effect. Hellcat and Fury continue to enable the battalion to accomplish any of its diverse missions without fail.

Fury also began change of command inventories with CPT Brad Heath about to relinquish command (on or about 9 June) to CPT Jason Ballard who comes to us from the Division staff. The Division gets its pound of flesh as CPT Heath reports to Division in June. Alpha Company will also change command as CPT Brad Maroyka reports from the Brigade and CPT Tony Kron will follow CPT Rob Perry in Headquarters by the end of the summer.

Improvements continue here at FOB Iskan with the Scouts and Mortars escorting Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) convoys back and forth from the Baghdad Airport and Taji. We are at the beginning of a vast increase to quality of life for the majority of the Battalion's Soldiers as we transition from tent to containerized ("cans") living. This will allow soldiers to sleep in what amounts to a trailer with air conditioning, just like at FOB Duke and FOB Kalsu. We are planning about a month

for the transformation of the FOB and during this time there will be some shifting around as we have to take tents down as the cans go in - envision building an airplane in flight. That will be about how difficult this will be.

Country Singer Toby Keith showed up on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May to entertain the Dealers. A great show, 7 or so songs, including a number of crowd pleasers. We were the smallest FOB that he visited in country. When I recently saw the Division Commander, MG Thurman, he told me that he sent him to us because "the Dealers have been doing great work out there on the frontier." It was good to have the battalion's service recognized with both word and deed and the soldiers truly enjoyed having Toby Keith entertain them.

Again, your Dealer is doing the nation's heavy lifting and as Memorial Day has just passed we remember our Fallen and their families. The progress being made each day, inside and outside the wire, is real and the changes lasting. Your Dealer is part of history in the making while he or she is part of the great deeds of the Dealers in Mesopotamia.

LTC Pat Donahoe  
Dealer 6

**Dealers...Deeds...Mesopotamia...the 67th!!**

[Patrick.donahoe@us.army.mil](mailto:Patrick.donahoe@us.army.mil)

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### **HELLCAT NEWS**

Greetings from Iraq; as we reach our half way mark, the temperatures in Iraq are starting to become very "warm" and the soldiers are getting anxious for their upcoming mid-tour leave. Saying all that, Hellcats are still focused and are continuing to press the enemy on all fronts. As I look across the formation it is truly amazing to see young soldiers, who just months ago were green, now perform like seasoned professional soldiers. This is in large part of the NCO Corps that 1SG Hendricks has developed. May has been a very busy month with the scouts and snipers out in sector virtually the entire time. The mortars have been executing their traditional roles as indirect fire specialist and as security escorts for the new containerized housing we will be receiving. I'm pretty sure they are tired of me and Top joining them on their patrols. The medics have been training the new soldiers that have arrived in country on combat lifesaving skills. I would also like to thank the soldiers that run the staff; they work extremely hard and never complain. With the arrival of KBR on the FOB, we are staring to see significant improvements regarding soldiers living conditions. It may be a bit longer but soldiers should have a big upgrade in housing in the near future. Hellcats are at the tip of the spear, on a fight that will determine the outcome of the rest of this war whether, providing reconnaissance,

indirect fire, command and control, medical aid or just plain direct action. Their performance has thus far been remarkable. As the months keep ticking, away our thoughts remain on our loved ones, without your support we would not be able to stay focused and determined. Until next month,

CPT Robert Perry  
Hellcat 6

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### **ARCHANGEL NEWS**

To the Wives and Families of the ASSASSINS.

The time has come for Desiree and I to say good bye to the Assassin Family. I will officially change command on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 with CPT Brad Maroyka. It has been a real honor and privilege for me to be allowed to serve as the company commander of your soldiers. This is a special group of men who every day has done the job we came to do here and have done it with honor. It has been all to brief a time that we have been allowed to spend with you, but Desiree and I have really enjoyed getting to know you and your soldiers.

When the company entered Iraq and took over the Jurf area, it was known for being an insurgent safe haven. The unit we replaced only went there when they had to and then traveled at a high rate of speed through the area. In January, there were only 5 stores open in town and the people would run and hide when we rode into town. That has all dramatically changed in the last few months.

Last month, we catalogued over 60 stores open in Jurf selling everything from soda and candy to televisions and satellite systems. The people feel safe with the presence of your soldiers and they enjoy us being there.

We have started several projects in the town to continue the revitalization of the area. First of all, we paid local Iraqi's from Jurf to repaint the store fronts in town. In the past, there had been a graffiti war in the town between the insurgents and past units. We paid locals to buy the paint and do the work to paint the town. Additionally, we are starting projects in the next week of repairing the bathroom at the local elementary school, building a new market place, and building a new city hall where we can return essential government services to the town.

The most significant project to date has been the construction of the Jurf as Sahkr Patrol Base, which our soldiers live and work in sector and the Jurf IP Station which is scheduled to be complete in about one month, almost 3 months ahead of schedule. The building of these two places is a great sign of the return of security to the area. It has also been a direct threat to the insurgents working in the area. This police station will become fully operational and will immediately have an impact on the security in the area. We will continue our partnership with the Jurf and Hamiyah IP stations to build them up into a capable force able to secure their own country.

The thing that made all of this listed above possible is your soldiers. They have on a daily basis come in contact with the people of Jurf and Hamiyah and slowly turned their opinion of the American Army from one of destruction and violence, to one of caring, compassion, but tough when necessary. Your soldier's daily contact with the people is beginning to open doors. The people are beginning to feel they can trust us, tell us where the bad guys are, and know that we will go and detain those individuals. It's the Staff Sergeant, Sergeant, Specialist, and Private who is making this happen. I could not be any more proud of these guys.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leaders of this outstanding company.

1SG Easley, you are the rock and the foundation of this company. Everything we did as a company was made better because of the work you did. On top of taking care of the personnel and administrative work of the company, you were my primary mentor and sounding board for ideas and operations. You made it easy to command this company. You have been my friend, my sounding board, and my trusted advisor. I thank you for everything you have done to make the company as successful as it has been.

1LT Garofalo, as the executive officer, you have taken every challenge I threw at you. You have allowed me to concentrate of the tactical mission at hand without ever having to worry if I had the combat power or the proper supplies to accomplish the

mission. You have done an outstanding job and I thank you for all your time and dedication to the men.

To the platoon leaders: LTs Eissler, Cimino, Avant, and Gallo. You have led you soldiers with distinction. You have accomplished every mission that you received to your absolute best. I always felt confident that I could give you a mission, my intent for the mission, and you would execute it well. It was great to have been able to work with leaders such as yourself.

To the NCO's: You are the rock of this unit. You set the standards daily and enforced them to your soldiers. You led your units to accomplish every mission assigned. You took care of your soldiers and looked out for their well-being at all times. You did everything a great NCO should do. Your leadership has allowed the company and battalion to be the success that it is. I am extremely proud of each and every one of you and what you have accomplished.

To the families. I again thank you for allowing me to command such an outstanding group of soldiers. I thank you for allowing them to serve and supporting their service to their country. It is because of people like your soldiers and you that our country is as great as it is. It's because of the sacrifices you are willing to make for the country, which makes our unit and our country the greatest in the world.

As Desiree and I say farewell, it is not the final farewell. We will be moving over the Headquarters

Company and the chance to command a different set of soldiers here and bring them home later in the year. Again, it has been my privileged to lead such fine young men in combat. They have done you and our country proud by their actions. You can be proud of them and their accomplishments. ASSASSINS!

CPT Tony Kron  
Archangel 6



JaS IP Station construction



Outlaw on patrol in Jurf



Rehired Jurf IPs, talking to the town

## **BUSHMASTER NEWS**



### From the First Sergeant:

This is the first message to everyone as the new 1SG of Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 67<sup>th</sup> Armor. First I'd like to state that it is a privilege serving with such a fine group of soldiers and we continue strive toward the successful completion of our mission. The month of May has brought continued progress in our sector. We've continue to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people through our visits to local schools bringing needed school supplies, as well as patrols involving personal contact with residents. Our soldiers maintain the constant drive to weed out the insurgents who are attempting to prevent democracy. The soldiers of Bravo Company face these daily challenges with pride in themselves and commitment to their fellow soldiers. We are very grateful for the support of family and friends at home. My congratulations to the Quintero Family on the birth of their twin children. I look forward to meeting all of you upon our return to Fort Hood.

1SG Bryan Bandy  
Bushmaster 7

### From the Commander:

Dear Friends and Family of the Bushmasters,

May is almost over and it is hard to believe that we have already been here 6 months. Time does pass quickly when you are having fun, or staying EXTREMELY busy. And we are staying busy... Your sons, husbands, fathers and friends here in B Co are working very hard with few breaks to execute our missions. I hope everyone reading this is as proud of them as I am for the hard work that they do every week. Soldiers on dismounted patrols, observation points and entry control points often work mind numbing hours in excruciating heat to accomplish our missions. Theirs is often a thankless job and they all work very hard to accomplish every mission no matter the circumstances.

There weren't too many changes this month to our operations. We continue to focus our efforts north of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Iskandariyah and stopping insurgents in that area. 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon conducted operation Tropic Lightning early in the month and cleared a suspected insurgent area to the northeast of our base. We continued with our humanitarian assistance missions and civil projects to help balance our "kinetic" operations here. We regularly visit the schools in our area and distribute school supplies to the children and the administrators to help put a more human face on coalition activities. Those missions are

always a lot of fun too and we look forward to seeing the smiles on the kid's faces when we give them something as small as a pen or pencil.

I would like to take a minute to welcome our new soldiers and say goodbye to those who have left us:

Welcome to SSGs Williams and Brisbane who came to us from Alpha Company.

Farewell to SSG Barrow and SGT Amaya. Both NCOs were sent to Alpha Company and we wish them the best of luck in the future.

Welcome to SGT Aguero who is joining us from the rear detachment.

Welcome to PVT Cross, PVT Dickinson and PVT Cruz who came to us straight from basic training.

I would also like to say congratulations to the following Bushmaster soldiers:

Congratulations to SPC Quintero and his wife for the birth of their twin boys. Way to go Michelle!

Congratulations to LT Donahue and his new bride Heather for getting married over block leave. The beautiful couple had a romantic wedding on the beach in Puerto Rico.

Congratulations to CPT Wiley and his new fiancée Christine for getting engaged over block leave. It's about time!

Congratulations to SGT Frye and his new wife Sara for getting married over block leave. SGT Frye is my Humvee driver and it's hard to let him go...I know that Sara will take good care of him though. ☺

Congratulations to SPC Arizmendez and his new wife Carol for getting married over block leave.

Congratulations to PFC Ceballos and his wife...they recently found out that they are expecting a baby girl.

Congratulations to SPC Blankenship, SPC Summers and CPL Blas for reenlisting during May. The army is offering a lot of great incentives for reenlistment right now (money, army schools, change of duty station, new jobs) so I encourage all of you to talk with your soldiers about what is available to him.

Congratulations to the following soldiers with May Birthdays- SPC Myles, SGT Casey, SGT Dragan, SSG Evans, SSG Carrigan, SPC O'Brien, PFC Rios, PVT Clark, CPL Devine

Congratulations to the following soldiers with May Anniversaries- SSG Fox, PFC Rosalez, SSG Simon, SPC Deantoni

If you haven't heard already, Toby Keith (famous country singer) is coming here next week for a concert. This is the smallest FOB that he will be visiting here in Iraq and that was done because our Division leadership wanted to ensure that the soldiers here in Iskandariyah got to see him. The soldiers of 1-67 have made a name themselves at the division level for the hard work they have conducted and the difficult conditions in which they have had to accomplish them. Our company will be providing a tank and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle for display during the concert. It should be

a good time for all those who are able to attend.

It has been brought to my attention that there is a rumor circulating about us going home early. That is completely false. At this point, we are still scheduled to have a full 12-14 month rotation here in Iraq. Please let me know if there are any other rumors floating around out there and I will do my best to confirm or deny them. Rumors are bad on your morale and ours so please don't hesitate to ask.

Memorial Day weekend to most of us brings back fond memories of weekends at the lake, cookouts and time with family and friends. However on this Memorial Day weekend, the soldiers of B Co are reminded of one another and the great men that we serve with. It is our honor to serve with one another, and to serve you and our great nation. I don't think there is a man here that won't look at Memorial Day differently from now on. Years from now when we are old we will think back to hot afternoons walking across canal covered fields, sitting for hours on observation point duty and reflecting on the friends that we lost. We will remember that Memorial Day is their day. It is the day to honor their sacrifice and to honor their service to our nation. I encourage everyone to take time to reflect on the men who have gone before us and have made the ultimate sacrifice.

We still have the hot summer to endure, but we are looking forward to our time to pass quickly so we can all get back to our families and



friends. THANK YOU for all of your continued prayers and support over the past few months. It makes our duty here so much more bearable knowing that our families and friends support us and our mission here.

CPT Matt Koehler  
Bushmaster 6  
[matthew.koehler@us.army.mil](mailto:matthew.koehler@us.army.mil)

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### **CARNIVORE NEWS**

Greetings to the Families and Friends of Team Carnivore:

May began under the worst possible circumstances, with the loss of CPL Robbie Light when his tank struck an IED on RTE Patty near the Island Patrol Base. The loss has been felt deeply by all of us, but we know that to fail in our mission here, or to not see this mission through would be the greatest injustice of all to our fallen comrade. We have mourned, and we have mourned deeply at the great void that exists without his dynamic personality around. We remembered him in a vigil on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, and said a formal goodbye to our brother in a memorial ceremony on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May. His family has demonstrated tremendous strength as they cope with the loss of their loved one. His wife Elizabeth gave birth by c-section to their daughter Ashlyn on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> and she is a healthy 7 lbs and 21 inches long. We are in the process of establishing an account for those wanting to make contributions to their

young family. More information will follow as the account is established in the near future. His parents have also demonstrated tremendous strength, and all will be able to say their final goodbyes to him at his funeral on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May. He was a hero, he was our brother, and he made the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation in this worthwhile endeavor. May he rest in peace.

AO Carnivore has experienced increased activity over the last month as the enemy has tried to react to the success we are having. In particular, the enemy has been trying to target the local contractors working on improving the roads as well as the integration of Iraqi Police. The enemy realizes that we are making tremendous strides, and is focusing his efforts at trying to coerce and intimidate the local population from cooperating with us. Now more than ever the pendulum is shifting in our favor, and we are exploiting this with increased patrols and focused operations aimed at detaining or killing those responsible for doing bad things in AO Carnivore. Those responsible for the attacks will receive their justice either through the Iraqi court system or from the barrel of a 120mm M1A2 SEP main gun.

New additions to Team Carnivore include two new lieutenants and one new platoon sergeant. 1LT Roland arrived at the beginning of the month and will assume duty in 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. Although he is an infantry officer who will take over as a tank platoon leader, we will do our best not to hold

it against him. 1LT Nguyen and SFC DelPilar arrived at the end of the month and will assume duties as the platoon leader and platoon sergeant of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon. 1LT Rousey has moved on to the Battalion S3 shop, and SSG Phillips will move to the company headquarters to assume duty as platoon sergeant there after he returns from leave. 1LT Nguyen is a transfer from the U.S. Navy who just couldn't stomach the thought of wearing bell-bottom blue jeans. Both he and SFC DelPilar are highly motivated and ready to tackle the difficult mission ahead. For those family members in each platoon, you will receive introductory letters from them in the near future.

Congratulations are also in order for 1LT Donahue, who recently got married while on his R&R leave.

Stellar performers for the month of May include the following Soldiers: SPC Hagy and SGT Temple from the Company Headquarters earned their distinction through their positive attitudes and tremendous work ethics. SPC Hagy has also covered down as the company electrician and has rewired several electrical components to help better take the fight to the enemy. From 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, PFC Getchell and PV2 Martin demonstrated their excellence during numerous dismounted missions with their squad. PFC Getchell continued on one raid after misjudging a crossing point and ending up in neck deep water. SPC Willis demonstrated his proficiency as a tank driver and loader on several mounted ambushes. From 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, PFC Bibb

continued to display his tremendous work ethic as a dismount, sharing the spotlight with PV2 Dibella as a tank loader and PV2 Paul as another dismount. From 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, PFC Stemple for his excellent performance as an interim Bradley Gunner, PFC McKenzie for his quick learning and remarkable performance as an interim tank gunner, and SGT Aguilar as a team leader and company sniper. And finally from our lost Blue Platoon,

Those scheduled to take leave for the month of June include the following: SSG Reeves, PFC Constante, SPC Lauer, SGT Leyde, SGT Barrett, SSG Phillips, CPL Freeman, SPC Porter, SGT Vaughn, CPT Hammond, SGT Riniker, SGT Rowland, SGT Curry, SSG Watson, SSG Reynolds and SGT Langone.

Videos are in the process of being distributed, and both March and April have been sent home for distribution. We have received much positive feedback on them to date, and we will keep the XO chained to his computer at the end of each month so that we may continue to make and distribute them. Please contact my wife if you are interested.

Notes from the 1SG: Greetings again to all of our friends and loved ones of Carnivore Company. We have successfully forged on to the halfway mark. It has been a rewarding and challenging experience for us all. The men of Carnivore appreciate your prayers and support.

Without going unsaid, May 1<sup>st</sup> was a tragic day for all

of us when we lost one of our own, Cpl Robbie Light. On behalf of all of the soldiers of Carnivore Company we have expressed our deepest regret. Our journey here will seem that much longer, because he will be sorely missed.

I will always remember Robbie as the quiet humorous soldier whom never caused anyone any trouble. He never complained and always gave his all on every mission we were given. As the company First Sergeant I would ride on his tank when Sgt Wright needed another crewmember. Yes, we had fun chasing down insurgents and conducting combat patrols. I was completely confident in his abilities as a tank driver. He took great pride in knowing that the First Sergeant would ride on his tank.

The men of Carnivore look forward to the birth of Robbie's daughter, Ashlyn and gladly set up a donation for her future in honor of her father. You would have been proud of the men of Carnivore Company. They gave Robbie a memorial that was befitting of a warrior. When we conducted our roll call, there wasn't a dry eye in our formation. The kind hearted person that he was, we know that he will always be with us in spirit and in heart.

We are rolling our tanks and loading our rifles keeping focused on our mission at hand. Thank you again for your strong support.

1SG Charles King  
Carnivore 7

CPT Stefan McFarland  
Carnivore 6



SPC Rodriguez on a dismounted patrol talking to local children



CPL Robbie G. Light – KIA 1 MAY 06, Farisiyah, IZ – May our Brother Rest In Peace



CPL Powers on patrol at the gunner's station in an M1A2 SEP

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### **DOGG NEWS**

Hello from "Sunny"  
Iraq. All has been well here for

the DOGGs; the Soldiers have performed great deeds in the month of May. I cannot tell you all enough on how proud I am of these Soldiers; perhaps we have the most disciplined team in the battalion. Early this month, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon and HQs conducted a raid of 6 homes; they discovered an IED cache and captured 4 suspected terrorists. Our Infantry Platoon, led by 1LT Gallo, discovered a huge weapons cache. SSG Garcia's, and SGT Ebel's men combed the desert until they found the hidden stockpile. The cache contained a 500lb. bomb, hundreds of mortar and artillery rounds, as well as, rocket propelled grenades; no doubt that many potential Improvised Explosive Devices were denied to the enemy. Our first and second tank platoons worked hard in establishing professional relationships with our Iraqi counterparts. Our platoons have embarked in providing additional training to the Iraqi Security Forces; these training events will certainly pay tremendous dividends when the Iraqis spearhead all of the missions instead of our Soldiers. Our headquarters platoon continues to work with the Iraqi Police Stations in order to support these young but promising agencies in their struggle for a safe and secure Iraq. 1LT Mignano and SSG Kelly are working hard in developing a preventive maintenance program so that the Iraqis can better maintain their equipment. SSG Ortiz constructed a volleyball court in the DOGG Pound, the evenings bring out some friendly competition; by the

way, the 1SG's team is still undefeated (even though they have not yet played the XO's team). SSG Teran, SGT Slack, SPC Rebledo and SPC Humphrey have constructed a make-shift recording studio and record music whenever they get an opportunity. 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon gathered their resources and built three showers inside their living quarters; now they have no excuse not to bathe (the whole company is relieved). We are looking forward to a concert preformed by Toby Keith at the end of the month. Yes, life can be hard here in the desert; however, our Soldiers find creative ways to keep their minds and bodies occupied. We would like to welcome the newest member to the Dogg Team 1LT Warsharvsky who will be a great asset as a targeting officer. Congratulations to the following Soldiers on their promotions; SFC Lancaster, SSG Vincent, SGT Colclasure, SGT Telker, SPC Klyce, PFC Adams, and PFC Perry. I would also like to thank all of the Soldiers who have re-enlisted recently; these men serve so that others may not have too. All for now, we are over the hump, we will be reunited soon.



SSG Garcia and Bomb



2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon on Patrol



DOGG POUND V-BALL



LT GALLO on Patrol

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### **ELIMINATOR NEWS**

In these last couple months, the Eliminators have dramatically changed their mission. They have handled these changes with no issues, and now successfully provide security for civil affairs missions in Karbala, escort EOD to defuse IEDs, man a 5-man cache search team, and stand guard in the towers to protect our FOB. Leading our cache search team is SSG Olmo, and he has been very successful so far. Along with



SSG Olmo, we have SSG Brown, SGT Cobb, CPL Turkaly, SPC Bauman and PVT Williams all doing a great job. Our EOD escort team has also been working very hard. They have to be on call and ready to go for 24 hours at a time in case they are needed. SGT Osborn has spent countless hours leading these patrols. Others who have been working hard on this mission are SSG Brown, PVT Johnson, PVT Wicker, SGT Nitta, SPC Preciado, SPC Morales, PVT Glassey, and of course our doc, SPC Polk, who is with us wherever we go

I would like to take this time to congratulate SPC Preciado. As I write this, he is in Baghdad getting sworn in to be a US citizen. Currently on leave are SGT Munns and SPC Manley. We hope they are enjoying their time at home with their families. SGT Salceda is also taking a 4-day pass, which is known as "freedom rest". These opportunities don't come up often, but when they do we make sure that we are able to give at least one of our soldiers a break from their mission here. We would like to send happy birthday wishes to the following Eliminators, SSG(P) Banks, and SGT Osborn. We would also like to recognize Aaron's birthday on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month.

Over the last six weeks, Second Platoon (PLT), Echo Company (E Co) has transitioned into a complete different mission type. Prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT did an outstanding job at searching and apprehending some of the area of operations larger high

value targets. From the early stages of the deployment, the PLT prided itself on mission flexibility and that attitude has allowed for a motivated acceptance of a new role. Since April 1<sup>st</sup>, E Co has provided assistance to 1-67 Combined Arms Battalion (CAB) by escorting the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from the Forward Operating Base (FOB) to units in need of the service. In addition, 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT has also provided valuable security at a joint operations building located in Karbala, Iraq. The PLT has also absorbed a unique mission involving mine detectors for searching for old military munitions. The PLT also occupies a guard tower to better provide security to the FOB.

The platoon has also welcomed some new Soldiers. Privates Gerald Chambliss, Zachary Dennis, Richard Donovan, and Robert Thompson have all made a quick impact. They are continually developing under the strong mentorship of the leadership. SPC Fithian is congratulated for the birth of son Adam Jr. and the entire PLT wishes their best to the Fithian Family. We wish Jonathon Fontanez-Medina a "Happy Birthday" for the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and PFC Christopherson, PFC Demoss, and SGT Morris. Finally, "Happy Anniversary" to SSG Watson and his wife on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May.

As usual, the Pit Crew has been hard at work. We have all of the usual work going on, but often get the unusual task too. With

Engineers it's hard to tell what you might be working on next, like hauling the dozer around for missions and many other projects for the Battalion. Some of our added projects range from working on the local national's trash and water trucks to building a guard tower for the new rifle range called Dealer Range. We don't complain though as it gives a little variety to the workload and keeps us busy, making the time pass a little quicker. One of our own projects is a huge workshop that we all built and installed air conditioners in to have a place to cool off. Now the NCO's will all have a cool place to relax, errr I mean 'do paperwork'. Speaking of NCO's, the team has a few new ones now. Congrats to SGT Tubbs, SGT Taylor, and SGT Eckert. All are well deserved. Unfortunately, we are losing one too. SSG(P) Fenter is moving to take over Bravo Team Maintenance. Congrats to him on being selected for promotion, and good luck to him too. We would like to send happy birthday wishes to the following Eliminator, SPC Eason.

In the past month members of HQ platoon have improved fighting positions for B CO and completed a number of tasks around the FOB including improving the protection of the ammo supply point, improving the entry control points by making repairs to the roads and removing trees and brush to provide visibility for all Dealer elements. Using heavy equipment such as dozers and the Army's SEE-Truck, HQ platoon is able to speed up the

process of uncovering buried weapons and explosives. The outstanding work and dedication of the soldiers of HQ platoon doesn't go overlooked. SPC Stevenson was selected and attended the promotion board for the rank of SGT; he passed with an outstanding score and was promoted to the rank of CPL until he makes the points necessary for SGT. We are also expecting an addition to the family with the birth of SPC Estrada and Tina's baby any time now. Congratulations to the both of you! The flexibility of our soldiers and the professionalism of our Non-Commissioned officers allow the HQ platoon to handle several missions of differing type and nature in addition to running the company. We would like to send happy birthday wishes to the following Eliminators, SFC Collins, SGT Kane, SGT Maddox, and SGT Sanchez.

Eliminator family, it has been another month already. This month marks the half way point in the Eliminator's expected twelve month deployment. As you can see from the sections above, there have been quite a few changes in the past weeks, and everyone has kept busy. With all of the projects and missions that the soldiers are involved in, they have been working hard to improve conditions across both the Babil and Karbala Provinces. These are the sorts of operations designed to have a lasting impact on the governance and infrastructure of the country as we continue to try and work ourselves out of a job here. Your soldiers

continue to perform well in the extraordinary tasks that have been assigned to them.

1LT John Bartusiak  
Eliminator 5

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### **FURY NEWS**

Another month has come and gone in Fury's deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom with 1-67 AR. May was an exciting month, with many changes occurring up and down the line. Improvements continue to be made to the FOB, and, as usual, Fury plays a vital role in every operation, every day. We also continue to better the lives and jobs of all 1-67 AR Soldiers by providing outstanding support and services.

Early in the month, three Soldiers were rewarded for their hard work and dedication displayed during the pre-deployment movements back at Fort Hood. SGT Davis, SPC Allen, and PFC Mock all received Army Achievement Medals (AAM) for their work, both outside of their primary MOSs, to ensure the company deployed with all of its sensitive items and supplies to Iraq. While it may have taken several months for these awards to be presented, this does not diminish their importance or worth. Congratulations to these three Soldiers, and thank you, again, for the hard work you give every day.

A familiar civilian contractor – Kellogg, Brown, and Root (KBR) – began to arrive this month. With their

arrival came road and area improvements and new shower and latrine trailers. New containerized living areas are en route from Baghdad, which will mark the transition from the run-down tents we moved into upon our arrival at FOB Iskandariyah to the comfortable, safe place call home now. While KBR will be on site to provide several contracted services, Fury is proud to announce that we will continue to provide the only military-run fuel point and DFAC in the theater.

Fury also continues to lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in Soldiers earning and receiving Combat Action Badges. SSG Van Steenberg, SPC Allen, and PFC Mock were all awarded their CABs this month. Congratulations, these awards are well-deserved and will continue to show your dedication to duty while you were deployed to Iraq with 1-67 Armor.

Work continues more or less as normal for Fury in day to day life. In May, the battalion received additional door armor kits for M1114 HMMWVs and reactive armor kits for Bradley Fighting Vehicles. These kits can take four mechanics anywhere up to 6 hours to install each kit. Somehow, when 30 HMMWV door kits arrived one Saturday, the mechanics were able to install all 30 before the 1800 deadline on the same day. It's this kind of hard work and skill that continues to make Fury stand out above every other support company in 4 ID. Distro continues to execute missions outside the wire every day in addition to all fuel and

ammo missions. With the rising heat, Headquarters missions, besides supply, arms room, and the orderly room, grows every day as the food and water requirement rises with the heat. The supply section is busy as they can be now with the Change of Command inventories as CPT Heath prepares to be relieved by CPT Ballard.

With that, a warm welcome goes out to some new members of Fury Company. CPT Ballard comes to us from the 4<sup>th</sup> ID Division Transportation office. He will become the next great commander of F Co, 1-67 Armor. Along with CPT Ballard, Fury would like to say welcome to PFC McDermott, PFC Seams, PV2 Alberson, PV2 Bobadilla, PV2 Marshall, PV2 Merry, PV2 White, PV2 Wright, PV2 Hall, and PFC Deweese, as well as welcome their families into the larger Fury Company family.

Thank you, again, to all the families and friends back home. Your constant support is the only way that we can continue our hard work and our ability to provide the best support in the Army. Your contributions cannot be mentioned enough.

Nothing Moves Without Fury!

CPT Bradley Heath  
Fury 6

Recently I noticed the condition of my wedding ring. I always wear it for everything, I never take it off for fear that I'll lose it. So my ring has the evidence of those years of wear. It has nicks and scratches and a slight warping from getting banged a couple of times in building projects.

Marriage is a lot like that. Over the years the disagreements, arguments, pouting, the stress over finances, in-laws or whatever else can cause stress makes nicks, cuts and scratches in the relationship.

It is a reminder of where we've been. I've often thought of getting the ring remade, but then I wouldn't be reminded of its history and I wouldn't be reminded of this parable between the ring and marriage.

Nicks, cuts and scratches are bound to come. They are normal elements in life and marriage. Instead of looking at the cuts and scratches with contempt, look at them as a history that you and your spouse have survived. The history of the marriage, like the ring, can provide a roadmap for the future...and very successful and happy future.

God bless,  
Chaplain Carl Otis

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### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

A roadmap for the married